Obituaries

Obituaries should be submitted by email to Jonathan Coe at jonathan.coe@nature.com.

All submitted obituaries should be 400 words maximum in length (apart from obituaries for past presidents of the BDA where the length should be 800 words).

Content of the obituary is down to the individual author, and the approval of the family should be given for the obituary prior to submission to the *BDJ*.

Leslie John Brinton
1932–2018

Leslie, the son of an army officer and a teacher, was two years old when his father was posted to India. He returned to England aged 12 to board at Barnard Castle School. When he was 16 he sustained a back injury and was hospitalised for two years. He was very proud of the fact that he was one of the first NHS patients, being in hospital on 5 July 1948.

He qualified from University College Hospital Dental School in 1955. After short spells of practice in London and Sussex, he moved to Reydon, Southwold in Suffolk, taking over the practice of his wife's former dentist. He remained there until his retirement in 1992. His care was much appreciated by generations of patients who, even after 26 years of retirement, said how much they missed him.

He joined the BDA on qualification and was active in dental politics. He believed the sections were the most important part of the BDA structure. He was a steadfast member of both the Norfolk and Norwich and the Suffolk and Ipswich Sections, serving as chairman of both. He was president of the Eastern Counties Branch in 1988 and subsequently became a vice-president.

He was a member of the Suffolk Local Dental Committee for many years and chairman for three. He was a member of the General Dental Services Committee from 1979–1988 and a member of the Representative Board, first being elected in 1985. He was a vocational trainer and was also involved in the Sick Dentist Scheme.

Additionally, he was a member of a number of professional societies. In his retirement he became a coordinator for the Teamwork project. In 1994, Leslie was made a life member of the British Dental Association.

He had many interests outside dentistry – music, art, theatre; his amazing memory meant that he could recall the full details of plays and concerts he had been to many years before. He was also a knowledgeable plantsman and enjoyed designing gardens, including his own, where sadly he fell, sustaining injuries which lead to his death. He had an encyclopaedic knowledge of wine and in retirement started a small wine business. Leslie once stated that his ambition was to 'design more and more gardens and sell more and more wine'. His was a life well lived and one in which he achieved his ambitions, both within and outside his chosen profession.

Leslie's wife of 61 years, Jean, died less than a year before him. He is survived by his five children, Catherine, Claire, Jonathan, Christopher and Caroline, and sixteen grandchildren. He was very proud of them all and took great interest in their activities and achievements.

Janet M. Heath

David Robert Stevenson
1950–2018

David Stevenson was educated at Loughborough Grammar School and studied dentistry at the University of Birmingham between 1968 and 1973 where he met Catherine, his wife of nearly 46 years. After house jobs, they volunteered with VSO and

he worked as dental officer in Port Maria Hospital, Jamaica for two years. During this period he claimed to have set his personal record for extractions: well over two hundred in a single day. On returning to the UK, he worked as community dental officer in Wrexham while completing a Master's degree in community dental health, also at Birmingham.

The majority of his career was spent as senior dental officer in Portsmouth including a period as assistant clinical director of the (then) Primary Care Trust. He was involved in conducting extensive surveys of dental health in children as well as adults with disabilities in Wessex and was instrumental in establishing specialist dental services for patients with blood-borne viruses in the region.

Throughout his career he remained a passionate advocate for community dental services and the NHS.

Outside of dentistry, his lifelong love was for hockey. He captained his school first XI and played for Leicestershire and Midland Schoolboys, and while in Birmingham he played for the university and Edgbaston. After captaining Wrexham's first XI, relocation to the South Coast led to an association with Havant Hockey Club for over thirty years as player, committee member, club captain and supporter; in later years involvement in the Golden Oldies hockey festivals allowed travel as far afield as Fiji, Argentina and Hawaii.

Following his retirement in 2010, he developed new passions for birdwatching, chicken keeping and being a proud grandfather.

He died suddenly and unexpectedly at home on 2 July 2018 following a myocardial infarction. He leaves Catherine, his four children and six grandchildren.

James Stevenson